GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2597
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2003
IMPORT OF STEEL GRADE LIME
VSM (RETD.) COL. CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steel grade lime imported during the last two years under open general licence (OGL) and proposed to be imported during 2003-04;

(b) whether the Government have assessed the impact of this import on the domestic producers, especially in Jaisalmer district of Western Rajasthan; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to stop import of steel grade lime to save the domestic producers of backward Thar desert of Rajasthan?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY)

(a) Limestone flux(L.D. below 1% SiO2) is covered underITC(HS) Code No. 25210010 ofthe ITC(HS) Classifications of Export and Import Items, 2002-2007, and is freely importable. Year-wise and country-wise details (quantity and value) of imports made are contained in the publication, `Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade of India: Vol.II (Imports)-Annual Number` published by the Director General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S). Copies of the same are available in the library of the Parliament.

(b) & (c) : After the removal of quantitative restrictions on imports of various items as per our commitment to GATT Agreement, import are generally decided by market forces. Tariff levels for the import of these items provide protection to domestic industry.